

We've seen it many times. If you disagree with the bill that is fine, vote against the bill. But all wisdom and light does not emanate from the newspaper industry. There are many brilliant people in the business and they have a right to their opinion, which they expound freely. The facts are that no one has addressed the matter of litter control. I'd just like to point out this, I voted to raise the bottle bill from the Committee last year. I've never been that outspoken of an opponent of the bottle bill. I recognize the realities of life, and that is that you're going to have one doozie of a time getting the bottle bill across the board. Senator Merz has an idea. He says let's tax automobiles because it is the automobile that distributes all of this litter. You can take the automobile and tax it--you get it all. It's not such a bad idea, Senator Merz. I don't know how it will go over with the new car dealers, but it is a proposal. You know it is easy to tear something down. It is easy to attack. It is easy to say it won't work. It is easy to say it is hard to collect. It is easy to say it is expensive to administer. Senator Murphy said we should just go to the General Fund. If he can get a half a million bucks from the General Fund, that will contribute to a decrease in the overall litter in the State of Nebraska, I'm for him. Nothing says he can't do it now. I haven't seen any proposal by Senator Murphy, prior to the introduction of this bill, that would do that. We all talk about litter. We all talk about the environment. The Committee on Ag and Environment is responsible for environmental issues. There are many areas I'm more versed in than environment, but I'll tell you that I believe if you want something that addresses a broad perspective, this is one approach. If you like the idea, support the bill. If you like the idea, support the amendments I proposed. If you don't, vote against it. I would suggest that you really are not going to improve the bill with a variety of amendments. As Senator Chambers has pointed out very plainly he's against the bill, but he's not delaying the thing with a bunch of amendments that are inclined and intended to just tear it down until it is just a bunch of trash itself. It may be a trash bill, I don't know. If it is I'll say this--it's the first one I've ever taken. It is interesting to me that very, very few people came before the Committee. In fact, no one came before the Committee and opposed the bill. All of a sudden we find there are things wrong with it. I still say this--if you have a better approach lay it out here. There are some people who want the bottle bills--get them on the floor. Let's see who will vote for them and who won't vote for them. I've picked up, and my family has picked up, tons of bottles along our roadway in front of our home. I'm tired of it, but I'm tired of the total litter problem. If you don't want it, vote against it. But I hope you don't vote against it because you've read three or four editorials. There are a whole bunch of newspapers out there that haven't said anything about it. I don't think it would have made any difference to these people if we would have left them out. I know it wouldn't have made any difference to Dave Lyons, he would have opposed the bill anyway, newspapers in or out. But the point I want to make is this--someone comes up with something better, lay it out here, otherwise vote to advance it or kill it, it is that simple.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of Senator Schmit's amendment. Record your vote. Record.